

8.—Miscellaneous Departments.

Efficiency Audit.

59. The Efficiency Audit Branch of the Secretariat continued to devote attention to measures having for their object the systematization of work in Government offices and departments. Special attention was paid during the year to the Secretariats. A number of useful compilations of rules and standing orders have been prepared and a comprehensive scheme has been drawn up for ensuring the speedy preparation of manuals and for keeping them up-to-date. Considerable progress has been made in standardising inspections, preparing record rules, and in other directions. The officers of the Efficiency Audit Branch have also been employed, generally at the request of heads of departments and other senior officers concerned, for inspecting offices and investigating serious irregularities. Sanction has been given to the issue of a quarterly journal containing a summary of the more important Government orders and publications issued from time to time and furnishing information, on matters of departmental technique, etc., likely to be of use to officers in the discharge of their duties.

Muzrai Department.

60. The proposals for improving the administration of the Muzrai Department were further considered during the year, and orders are expected to issue in a few weeks.

The work done in the Government Press and other minor departments will be referred to in Part II of the Address.

9.—Local Self-Government.

Municipalities.

61. The income and expenditure of all municipalities in the State during the year amounted to about Rs. 12,96,800 and Rs. 12,56,100, respectively. The constitution of periodical municipalities has been sanctioned as a tentative measure in certain places in the Shimoga District where large annual *jatras* are held. In the Bangalore City, the number of *ex-officio* members on the municipal council was reduced from three to one. A non-official Vice-President was appointed for the Tumkur

Municipal Council and a full time official Vice-President was appointed for the Shimoga Municipality.

The question of improving the water supply of Chitaldrug by pumping water from the Katharahal tank, a distance of about eight miles from the town, has been approved. Government have promised a liberal contribution and arrangements have been made to finance the scheme by a loan to be raised, as far as possible, within the district itself.

62. The total income and expenditure under District Funds were approximately Rs. 12,27,618 and Rs. 9,78,266, respectively. The special features of the Local Boards administration during the year were the levy of a railway cess in the Tumkur and Chitaldrug Districts and the amendment of the Local Boards Regulation authorising the levy of shop tax in Unions. *Local Boards.*

63. In last year's address, I outlined the principal reforms in connection with municipalities and district boards then under contemplation and I also stated that the proposals involved a very appreciable contribution from State revenues, and required further consideration before Government were able to accept them. The question is now ripe for orders which Government hope to issue very shortly. *Reforms.*

10.—Schemes of Rural Improvement.

64. At the close of the last official year, 8,171 village committees were working in the several districts as shown below :— *Village Improvement Scheme.*

Districts :			No. of village committees
1. Mysore	...	...	1,580
2. Tumkur	...	...	1,249
3. Kolar	...	...	1,072
4. Bangalore	...	...	1,050
5. Hassan	...	...	999
6. Chitaldrug	...	...	853
7. Shimoga	...	...	846
8. Kadur	...	...	522
Total			8,171

The population served by the committees was 4,514,244 or roughly three-fourths of the entire population of the State. The system of devoting half-a-day's labour every week for tidying up village sites and carrying out works of